

Joe Bustillos

Thesis Statement: No political system has totally met man's need for freedom and security.

UTOPIA

...The politicians all make speeches
while the news-men all take notes
and they exaggerate the issues
as they shove it down our throats.
Is it really up to them
whether this country sinks or floats?
Well I wonder who would lead us
if none of us would vote?

- Larry Norman ¹

With the confusing doctrines of Friederick Nietzsche pounding in my ~~Christi~~ Christian brain I walked toward my room amidst Loyola's tall palm trees. As I walked, a bald-headed middle-age man approached me, and gave me a piece of paper. He looked the other way as he mumbled something about wanting a change in government. The paper was a notice about ^{whom} ~~who~~ the communist party was backing as ^{ag} ~~their~~ candidate for president. With Nietzsche yelling in one ear, this communist in the other, and the Lord somewhere in ~~between~~, I began to think about a change myself. ^{not clear}

The desire for a utopian state has led mankind down a long and diversified road. Recognizing man's ^{the} ~~paradoxical~~ need for both freedom and security has brought into existence many different systems of government. Some systems, such as anarchy and theoretical communism, have favored man's need for freedom. Other systems, such as fascism and totalitarianism, have favored man's need for security. Democracy, as it was originally drafted, has attempted to mediate between the two poles of anarchy and totalitarianism.

In going through the marshland of political systems it would be wise to remember the words of Plato:

How charming people are! - always doctoring, increasing and complicating their disorders, fancying they will be cured by some nostrum which somebody advises them to try, never getting better, but always growing worse...

Are they not as good as a play, trying their hand at legislation, and imagining that by reforms they will make an end to the dishonesties and rascalities of mankind--not knowing that in reality they are cutting away at the heads of a hydra? 2

The problems that exist in various systems of government can be blamed on the fact that the innovators of ^{the} such systems have problems also. Because democracy, as it was originally drafted, attempts to meet man's need for both freedom and security, it can be called the preferred state. However, its preference is short because the individuals elected to govern in the democratic system, by human nature, tend to favor one of the two basic needs of man. Also adding to the failure of the democratic system is the tendency of men to ask more from the state than what it was originally designed to satisfy, namely the need for freedom and security. Likewise, all political systems, from anarchy to totalitarianism, serve to do nothing more than to cover up the "first cause" of the political mess-up: The Nature of Man.

Concerning the nature of man St. Augustine of Hippo once said that man was made for God. Likewise, if man becomes separated from that relationship that he has with God, then he becomes dissatisfied and restless. Does the restlessness of mankind's heart, the fact that he's always seeking "change," regardless of the fact that he has surrounded himself with a multitude of political and social systems, tell us anything about where he stands in his present relationship with God?

1 Larry Norman, "The Great American Novel", Only Visting This Planet, MGM Records, 1972.

2 Plato, The Republic, p.425 — in which edition?

The focus of your paper seems to shift here, in that you moved from man's need for freedom & security (your thesis statement)

to man's radical hunger for God. The relationship between the two concerns is not clear.

for adequate development, you should give anarchy and totalitarianism "equal time" as compared to your treatment of democracy.

(A classification paper should probably deal equally with all the classes treated.)

Format

Grammar, Usage, etc.

Spelling

Thesis Statement

Organization

Development (Ideas)

Style

Grade